Ripped from the ROUNDUP

Ripped straight from the pages of old Space News Roundups, here's what happened at JSC on this date:

1965

Col. John H. Glenn Jr., America's first astronaut to orbit the Earth, was sworn in as a consultant to NASA February 26 by NASA Administrator James E. Webb.

Glenn, who retired from the Marine Corps in January, will work with Administrator Webb in various aspects of NASA programs as his time and interest allow, including participation in conferences, appearances both in the United States and overseas, and following up on developments underway.

1975

The first major structural component of the space shuttle – the orbiter payload bay – recently completed by General Dynamics Convair Division, was scheduled to arrive at Rockwell-International Palmdale, California, facility.

The payload bay, which forms the mid-fuselage section of the orbiter spaceplane, is an aluminum structure 60 feet long, 15 feet wide, 13 feet high and weighs 13,500 pounds. The mid-fuselage was officially accepted by NASA last Friday.

The mid-fuselage was trucked from San Diego to the Palmdale plant and was scheduled to complete the 200 mile trip at 3 p.m. PDT Thursday.

1990

JSC is now the permanent home to a one-fourth structural scale model orbiter designed and built by Rockwell in 1974.

The highly detailed one-quarter size orbiter was the first structural dynamic test article of the shuttle ever built. It was used from 1974 through 1978 to investigate how well the dynamic loads of launch and landing could be predicted. Since 1978, the model had been in storage at Rockwell in Downey, Calif.

The model arrived at JSC via the final delivery by NASA's Super Guppy, the agency's 25-foot diameter cargo aircraft derived from a YC-97 tanker vehicle. The model's new home is now Bldg. 49 Vibration and Acoustic Test Facility where it will be used by personnel from the Structures and Mechanics Division to predict more accurately the forces payloads will experience during launch and landing.

Reaching out to the Moscow community

By Carlos Fontanot

Late last year, the Moscow Technical Liaison Office and the Public Affairs Office in Moscow started an educational program to reach out to the community with space and science presentations for schoolchildren of all ages.

MTLO and PAO representatives visited Moscow Public High School 1223 on February 23 as part of the Moscow Outreach Program. The group was welcomed by the school's principal, Galina Timofeyeva, and assistant principal, Olga Kryukova, and escorted to the physics classroom to set up computer and projection equipment for the presentation.

Shortly after 10 a.m., students started to file in to the physics classroom curious about the visitors, equipment and educational materials being prepared. Before the bell rang to indicate the beginning of the class, the room had already filled with about 50 tenth graders wondering what the visitors had in store for them.

Because the Russian public school curriculum includes a foreign language starting in first grade, these 15-year-old high school students were proficient enough in English to understand the presentation without the help of an interpreter.

Aided by high-fidelity, photo-realistic computer graphics projected onto a large screen, MTLO's Nathan Moore discussed what it would take for a round trip to Mars, including new technologies for the vehicle and logistics systems, the complexities associated with the long travel time, the amount of supplies and propellants to make the trip possible, the need to grow food, and generation of oxygen and water on the planet during the stay. Physical characteristics of Mars were taken into account when illustrating how future explorers would have to prepare for such a mission. The architecture of the base was discussed and illustrated with rotating computer models showing the interior and exterior of the modules to be used. Using an inflated balloon a student had brought to class, Moore explained atmospheric pressure and what it would take to contain it in the outpost.

Time went by quickly and the students seemed to enjoy their physics class, showing lots of interest and asking good questions ranging from the optimum number of explorers for a Mars expedition, or when this type of mission could take place, to what would happen if suddenly Mars creatures would appear.

Other topics like the International Space Station and the cooperation between the U.S. and Russia during the Phase One Program were also briefly discussed.

To facilitate further research on the presented topics, the students were given bookmarks listing NASA Web sites. The students also received ISS lithographs, NASA logo decals, and past mission emblems.

After the presentation, the school principal was very thankful and said that she anxiously awaited the next NASA visit to the school.

Two other schools in the Moscow area have also been visited by NASA personnel as part of the Outreach Program. Last November, Astronaut Candidates Leland Melvin and Suni Williams kicked off the program with a visit to St. Vladimir Academy where they jointly talked to approximately 35 high school students about astronaut training and what it takes to become an astronaut. Earlier this month, Moore modified his Mars presentation so that second grade students at the Anglo American School were able to understand what it would take to travel to Mars and build an outpost on the planet. The 7-year-olds had been studying space for the last month and were ready with very good questions at the end of the one-hour presentation.

Several other schools in the Moscow area have also expressed interest in a presentation and arrangements are being made to visit those schools. ■

Carlos Fontanot is on a one-year assignment in Moscow for JSC's Public Affairs Office.

GILRUTH CENTER NEWS

Open from 6:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 6:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday, and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. Contact the Gilruth Center at (281) 483-3345.
http://www4.jsc.nasa.gov/ah/exceaa/Gilruth/Gilruth.htm

Sign up policy:

All classes and athletic activities are on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign up in person at the Gilruth Center and show a yellow Gilruth or weight room badge. Classes tend to fill up two weeks in advance. Payment must be made in full, cash or by check, at the time of registration. No registration will be taken by telephone. For more information, call x33345

Gilruth badges:

Required for use of the Gilruth Center. Employees, spouses, eligible dependents, NASA retirees and spouses may apply for photo identification badges from 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays. Cost is $10. Dependents must be between 16 and 23 years old.

Nutrition intervention program: Six-week program includes lectures, a private consultation with the dietitian and blood analysis to chart your progress. Program is open to all employees, contractors and spouses. For details call Tammie Shaw at x32980.

Defensive driving: One-day course is offered once a month at the Gilruth Center. Pre-registration required. Cost is $25. Call for next available class.

Stamp club: Meets every second and fourth Monday at 7 p.m. in Rm. 216.

Weight safety: Required course for employees wishing to use the Gilruth weight room. Pre-registration is required. Cost is $5. Annual weight room use fee is $90. The cost for additional family members is $50.

Exercise: Low-impact class meets from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Cost is $24 for eight weeks.

Step/bench aerobics: Low-impact cardiovascular workout. Classes meet from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cost is $32 for eight weeks. Kristen Taraszewski, instructor.

Yoga: Stretching class of low-impact exercises designed for people of all ages and abilities in a Westernized format. Meets Thursdays 5-6 p.m. Cost is $32 for eight weeks. Call Darrell Matula, instructor, at x38520 for more information.

Ballroom dancing: Classes meet Thursdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. for beginner, 8:30-9:30 p.m. for intermediate and 7:30-8:30 p.m. for advanced. Cost is $60 per couple.

Country and western dancing: Beginner class meets 7-8:30 p.m. Monday. Advanced class (must know basic steps to all dances) meets 8:30-10 p.m. Monday. Cost is $20 per couple.

Fitness program: Health-related fitness program includes a medical screening examination and a 12-week individually prescribed exercise program. For details call Larry Wier at x30301.

Aikido: Martial arts class for men and women meets 5-6 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays. No special equipment or knowledge is needed to participate. Aikido teaches balance and control to defend against an opponent without using strength or force. Beginning and advanced classes start each month. Cost is $35 per month.

TICKET WINDOW

The following discount tickets are available at the Exchange Stores

General Cinema Theaters	$5.50
Sony Loew's Theaters	$5.50
AMC Theaters	$5.00
Fiesta Texas .....adult . . .$20.50. . .child (under 48 inches) . .	$17.25
Astroworld Early Bird (use by June 18)	$17.25
Astroworld .....1 day . . .$21.00 .....2 day . . .	$31.00
Water World	$12.00
Moody Gardens (2 events) (does not include Aquarium Pyramid)	$10.75
Moody Gardens (Aquarium only)	$9.25
Sea World .....adult . . .$29.00 . . . .child (3-11 years) . . .	$19.25
Space Center Houston . . . . . adult . . $11.00 . . . . . child (age 4-11) . . . (JSC civil service employees free.)	$7.25
Space Center Houston annual pass	$18.75
Splash Town .....1 day . . .$13.00 . . . . . .Season Pass . . .	$37.50
Postage Stamps (book of 20)	$6.60

Please bring your driver's license to pay by personal check.

Exchange Store hours

Monday-Friday
Bldg. 3 7 a.m.-4 p.m.
Bldg. 11 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

- All tickets are nonrefundable.
- Metro tokens and value cards are available.

For additional information, please call x35350.